

BRITISH DEFEATED.

Lord Methuen Checked in His Advance and Thrown Back.

MANY MORE MEN NEEDED.

The Boers Appear in "Astounding Numbers." Gen. Buller's Advance on Ladysmith.

A dispatch from London says each important battle seems to bring a worse reverse for the British, and the papers sorrowfully admit that Lord Methuen's check at Mafeking is the most serious event the war has yet produced. The Morning Post says: "We have had our day of humiliation appointed for us. Let us accept it humbly and soberly and be the better and stronger for the lesson it has taught us. This last reverse will make us a fresh body of Europe. There never was a more apt occasion to prove to Europe what we are worth."

The position Lord Methuen assumed is thus described by a correspondent: "The Boer position terminates on the east with an abrupt saddle rock, some 150 feet high. Boer entrenchments run around the whole front. The position is some two miles long, due east and west. The western ends of the trenches follow the contour of the kopjes and afford a retreat. It is estimated here that Lord Methuen's forces amounted to 11,000 men and perhaps more. No reliable estimate of his losses has yet been received. They are believed to have been at least 450."

All the papers comment upon the extreme gravity of the situation and upon the momentous decision Lord Methuen has now to make—whether to remain at Mafeking or to retreat on Orange River. The Times says: "At least 10,000 additional men must be called up and the militia and volunteers turned to account. Efforts must be made to increase the local colonial forces, and further efforts of troops from Canada and other colonies must be sought and accepted."

The Standard, which comments upon the "seemingly astonishing numbers of Boers," is driven to the conjecture that a substantial portion of the Boer commandos have been recruited from the Cape Dutch. All eyes are now turning hopefully to Gen. Buller, who taking into account the troops with Gen. White at Ladysmith, has altogether 30,000 men. The Standard says:

"At this moment there must be few men in her majesty's dominions have great weight of care upon them as Gen. Buller carries on his shoulders. A dispatch from Boer sources says that Kimberley remains quiet during the night. The special correspondent of the Daily Mail at Mafeking, describing the fighting, says:

"The Boer trenches extended far beyond the kopje into the open plain. Those on the plain were hidden by screens of leaves. Those near the kopje were guarded by a double line of barbed wire. Eventually they feared our storming and taunted attack."

"We took the kopje and trenches with an intense, well directed fire, of various guns, including a naval gun and a Howitzer battery, both using lyddite. I believe they suffered severe damage. The Boer prisoners report that one lyddite shell fell among their men, only five of whom escaped unhurt. Other shells burst in the enemy's ranks, causing its complete destruction."

"The Boers are in still larger force than we found them at Mafeking. Our outnumbers us by almost 3 to 1. The Transvaalers are apparently dominating in their military councils, although in a minority."

THE OFFICIAL REPORT.

The London war office has received the following dispatch from Gen. Methuen, dated Tuesday, Dec. 12:

"Our artillery shelled the very strong position held by the enemy in a long, high kopje for 4 until dusk Sunday. It rained hard last night. The High Light brigade attacked at daybreak Monday the south end of the kopje. The attack was properly timed but failed. The Guards were ordered to protect the Highland right and rear. The cavalry and mounted infantry, with a Howitzer artillery battery, attacked the enemy on the left and the Guards on the right, supported by field artillery and Howitzer artillery."

"They shelled the position from daybreak, and at 1:15 I sent the Gordons to support the Highland brigade. The troops held their own in front of the enemy's entrenchments until dusk, the position extending, including the kopje for a distance of six miles holding the Modder River. Today I am holding my position and entrenching myself."

"The London war office has received the following dispatch from Gen. Methuen, dated Tuesday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p. m. As the Boers occupied their trenches strongly this morning, I retired in perfect order here, where I am in security. I have gathered from some of the prisoners and from our men with the ambulances who talked with the Boers, that the enemy's losses were terrible, some corps being completely wiped out. The Boers have been most kind to my wounded."

SEVERAL OFFICERS KILLED.

The British casualties included the Marquess of Winchester, major of the Second battalion Coldstream Guards, who was killed, and Col. Downham of the First battalion Highlanders who was mortally wounded. When the Highlanders met the murderous point-blank fire of the Boers about 200 were mowed down. The Black Watch regiment on reforming was able to muster only 160 men. The Boers lost heavily in the trenches and also in the wire entanglements when they came into the open in an attempt to make a flank attack on the British."

The terrible shelling except from the Boer rifle until nearly 4 o'clock in the afternoon when the Gordon Highlanders formed to renew the attack on the entrenched kopje. They advanced with the utmost gallantry to attack the Boers, close to the place where lay

"WAR IS HELL."

Some of the Horrors of the War in the Transvaal.

BOERS GIVEN NO QUARTER.

Charge of the Fifth Lancers on the Disarmed and Defenceless Boers Was a Horrible Spectacle.

The first definite charges of British massacre of Boers who had thrown down their arms and asked for mercy was made by a correspondent of the Algemein Handelsblad, the leading newspaper of Amsterdam, written from Elands-laagte, and they were printed on December 4. He said:

"Never have I thought Englishmen to be such brutes. Imagine that about 90 men were behind a kopje when 300 lancers attacked them. The Boers had to surrender to such overwhelming numbers, and threw down their weapons in token of submission. But the captain of the Lancers shouted: 'Kill the Boers!' Whereupon a tremendous massacre ensued. Soon thereafter, the only prisoner among them, was spared because he had remained flat on the ground."

Private Dolan, of the Fifth Lancers, thus describes the same incident in a letter printed in London, December 4. As soon as they saw the lances they threw up their rifles and ammunition and cried 'Friends!' but it was no go for they fired on the Red Cross, and we had no mercy for them."

An officer of the Fifth Lancers wrote a letter describing the Elands-laagte massacre, which was published in the London Times of December 9, in which he describes the cold-blooded killing most cheerfully and with rare humor, thus:

"After the enemy were driven out one of our squadrons pursued and got right in among them in the twilight, and most excellent big-sticking ensued for about 10 minutes, the bag being about 60."

"One of our men stuck his lance through two, killing both at one thrust. Had it not been getting dark we would have killed many more."

An account told by a dragoon corporal to a correspondent of the London Chronicle, was printed in that newspaper on December 8. He said:

"The Boers laid their horses and rolled among the rocks, hiding their heads with their arms, calling for mercy, calling to be shot—anything to escape a stab from those terrible lances through their back and bowels. But not many escaped. We just gave them a good dig as they lay. Next day most of the lances were bloody."

Another lance trooper thus described the affair:

"We got a charge at them. They threw up their arms and fell on their knees for mercy, but we were told not to give them any, and I can assure you they got none. We went along sticking our lances through them. It was a terrible thing."

J. H. Fox, an outsider now at Ladysmith, writes:

"It was a sight to see the Lancers charge. When they got within 100 yards the Boers threw up their arms and begged for mercy. They jumped off their horses and got on their knees and prayed for mercy."

Here is a contribution from one of the Lancers:

"One Boer begged me very hard to spare him, but my reply was: 'You—here's your mercy!' I shot him dead, and did not take the trouble to lance him."

TO BE ROLLING PALACES.

The Southern Railway's Florida Limited Trains This Season.

THOUSANDS KILLED.

Terrible Loss of Life on the Island of Ceram.

AN EARTHQUAKE DISASTER.

A Huge Tidal Wave. Whole Coast for Miles Transformed into Immense Mud Puddle. Corpses Everywhere.

The San Francisco Bulletin says the disaster that overtook the island of Ceram on the second of last month cost the people of that district immense loss in life and property. The steamship American Maru, which arrived Wednesday from Ceram and reports that five thousand people were destroyed on that island alone when the dreadful earthquakes of November shocked the Japanese and agitated the islands adjacent to the empire.

On the night of the second, the people of Ceram were awakened by a terrific shock of earthquake that seemed to work from north to south. Every one fled from his house into the public square. A few hours later it was reported that the water was rising in the bay of Ambon. The sea came forward in the shape of a huge tidal wave and forced the water into the bay en masse. It came up 50 feet over the tops of trees, 30 feet high. Out of nearly 1,800 inhabitants only 40 escaped.

The whole coast for miles was transformed into a huge mud puddle. Corpses were everywhere. Broken trees and portions of houses were buried in the ooze. Every few rods were great mounds of stones and boulders that had been washed up from the sea, changing the entire topography of the country. The exact number killed along the coast will never be known, as the corpses are in many cases yards under the new ground. At Hatoesia, 40 of 500 people, 100 were killed and 40 wounded. The balance escaped to the hills, where the shock of earthquake was first felt."

THE LUZON GUERRILLAS.

They Harass Supply Trains and Carry Off Isolated Americans.

A dispatch from Manila says Col. Smith, with a detachment of the Seventeenth infantry, surrounded and captured in a village near Malasqui a party of guerrillas who had made their headquarters there. The party included officials at Malasqui for friendliness to the Americans.

All are insurgents who became Bujidos when the disintegration of the Philippine army began. They kept the country around Malasqui in a state of terror for several weeks, and committed 25 murders in less than that number of days. When they were caught they were promptly sent to Gen. MacArthur's headquarters at Bayambang by train. It is expected that they will be speedily tried and either shot or hung as an example, if convicted."

Death of Wash Shell.

Capt. George Washington Shell died suddenly at 2 o'clock Friday afternoon at his home three miles from Laurens. He was in Laurens Friday on his way home from Greenville, where he had been on business pertaining to his office, district census supervisor, and while there had on attack of something like cramps, but soon recovered sufficiently to travel and immediately came home. A second attack, which probably affected the heart, proved too much for him, and he expired almost suddenly. Capt. Shell retired from public life in 1895 and has since devoted his time to farming on a modest and extensive scale. His appointment as district census supervisor was confirmed only a few days ago and he was in the discharge of his new office when the summons came. Capt. Shell was 70 years old, a man of pleasing address and marked ability.

"Where They Are At."

Well, next summer witnesses another political campaign, and for this especial reason our representatives in Washington will, perhaps, be pleased to receive communications from the "dear people" at home. Those who are interested in the governmental distribution of seeds, speeches and other litter and literature are indebted to the Congressional Record for the Washington addresses of the South Carolina delegation in Congress. Senator McLaurens is at the Oxford; Senator Tillman at 1000 E. Capitol street; Representatives Jno. S. Sanyar, Wilson and William Elliot at the Normandie; D. B. Finley and W. Jasper Talbert at the National; Asbury C. Lattimer, 220 East Second street, S. E.; J. William Stokes, 313 E. Capitol street; and James Norton at the Metropolitan.

Guerrillas will be Hung.

Isolated bands of bushwacking insurgents who are caught by our forces in the Philippines are likely to be summarily dealt with. At the cabinet meeting Friday the matter was discussed at some length, and it was the general sentiment that the situation demanded vigorous treatment. As long as the insurgents keep up a show of an army under a semblance of discipline, they will be treated as prisoners of war when captured, but when they degenerate into isolated bands of marauders, harassing our forces by cold-blooded assassinations, it is the judgment of the officers in command in the Philippines and of the president and the members of the cabinet that the situation demands a summary action.

The Tobacco Planters.

The tobacco growers of North Carolina have begun a movement to raise the price of the product throughout the southern States, which planters say has decreased in ten years from 37 cents per pound to 12 cents. District conventions are to be held in the tobacco growing States in January for the purpose of appointing delegates to a convention to be held in Raleigh on Jan. 17. The purpose of the convention will be to organize a company to buy the entire crop of bright tobacco grown in the States of North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee, and the farmers are to enter into an agreement refusing to allow the market, which the growers claim is reducing the price, to purchase any of the product for five years.

Walterboro Excited.

The town council of Walterboro has made an appropriation for the establishment of quarantine regulations against the towns of Hampton, Varnville, Scotia, Denmark, Bamberg and against the turpentine farms of Georgia, these places being reported as infected with smallpox.

ANOTHER BRITISH REVERSE.

General Buller's Army Was Defeated With Big Loss.

COLORED CONFERENCE.

Methodists in Greenville.

Below is given the appointments for the ensuing year resulting from the colored South Carolina Methodist Episcopal conference's session in Greenville:

Beaufort District—W. M. Hanna, presiding elder; Aiken, V. S. Johnson; Allendale, W. G. White; Appleton, E. J. Curry; Bamberg, W. G. Valentine; Barnwell, C. K. Brown; Beaufort, J. W. Dore; Cottageville, B. F. Miller; Denmark, J. D. Chestnut; Ehrhardt, Washington Thomas; Fairfield, L. W. Williams; Grahamville, A. D. Brown; Green Pond, B. J. Boston; Hampton, (supply), W. D. King; Holly Hill (supply), J. W. Singler; Jacksonboro, J. S. Tyler; Midway, J. L. Henderson; Reedsville, M. C. Cook; Ridgeville, J. T. Latson; Ross (supply), J. S. Epps; Rufin, Henry Barker; St. George, S. A. King; St. Paul, J. J. July; Seaford, C. H. Harleston; Springfield, T. J. Robinson; Springtown, Ellis Foster; Summerville, J. B. Middleton; Ulmer's, P. D. Harris; Walterboro, J. R. Townsend; Weimer, G. W. Gantt; Yemassee, A. B. Morrissey.

Charleston District—C. C. Jacobs, presiding elder; Bethesda, G. W. Williams; Black River, G. F. Miller; Brook Ridge (supply), R. H. Bostick; Camp Green, Benjamin Brown; Charleston, Centenary, A. G. Townsend; Charleston Mission, Old Bethel, J. A. Brown; Charleston, Wesley, J. F. Pagne; Cooper River, Dickson Salter; Forrester and Manning, Alfred Lewis; Georgetown and South Santee, J. D. Mitchell; John's Island, A. B. Kennedy; Kingstree circuit, A. B. Franklin; Kingston, H. G. Frederick; Lanes, Waites McIntosh; Maryville and St. Andrews, H. H. Matthews; Mt. Pleasant and McEllen's Island (supply), I. W. H. Witherspoon; Pinopolis, Daniel Brown; St. John's, Stewart Simmons; St. Mary's, L. L. Thomas; St. Stephen's, Wm. Davis; St. Thomas, A. H. Harrison; Turkey Creek, I. H. Fulton; Washington and Landon, W. R. Jervay.

Florence District—J. E. Wilson, presiding elder; Bonnetville, G. W. Cooper; Boulder, H. C. Ashby; Cheraw and Mt. Zion, Jeremiah McLeod; Clio and Tatam, W. H. Tatam; Darlington, E. B. Borroughs; Florence, F. E. McDonald; Hartsville, B. M. Pargues; Lamar and Sandy Grove, W. S. Neely; Little Rock, W. H. Redfield; Lynchburg, G. L. Davis; Marion, J. W. Moultrie; Mr. S. Bluff, J. A. Haral; Maysville, F. L. Baxter; North Marlboro and Bethel, M. W. Gray; Salem and Wesley, C. H. Dandridge; Sellers, C. E. Robinson; Shiloh, J. C. Barsh; Smyrna, L. E. Gray; Spears, James McEaddy; Syracuse and St. John's, F. W. Vance.

Greenville District—M. M. Louzon, presiding elder; Anderson, I. E. Lowrey; Belton, J. R. Rosemond; Central Mission (supply), W. F. Smith; Esley, E. W. Adams; Greenville, B. F. Witherspoon; Liberty, P. R. Camlin; Lowndesville, C. L. Lowrey; Marietta, J. C. Orio; North Greenville, C. B. Logan; Olio, Benjamin Robinson; Rock Hill, York Goodlett; St. Mark's and St. Paul's, I. L. Hardy; Seneca, D. M. Minus; South Greenville, J. H. Parks; Walhalla, Wesley Littlejohn; Williamston, A. S. J. Brown.

Orangeburg District—J. L. Grice, presiding elder; Aikens, J. T. Latson; Anderson, J. W. Brown; Ashland, J. W. Grove; Branchville, B. G. Frederick; Camden, C. C. Scott; Camden circuit, J. B. Thomas; Chesterfield, S. S. Porter; Columbia, A. E. Quick; Columbia Mission (supply), J. H. Johnson; Edisto Fork, N. T. Bowen; Jamison, D. J. Sanders; Jefferson, S. S. Eawton; Lexington, to be supplied; Longtown, A. J. Robinson; Macedonia, R. A. Thomas; Mechanicville, J. P. Robinson; Mt. Zion A. R. Smith; North, B. S. Jackson; Orangeburg, J. D. Wittaker; Orangeburg circuit, J. B. Taylor; Pineville, Morris Stewart; Rock Spring, E. M. Pinckney; Rowesville, D. Smith; Smithville, A. B. Murphy; Sumter, W. R. Palmer; Sumter circuit, Thomas Sims; Tiller's Ferry (supply), E. A. Rogers; Wateree, W. A. Jones; L. M. Dunton, Claflin university.

Spartanburg District—R. L. Hickson, presiding elder; Aikens, W. B. Romans; Blacksburg, Moses Mason; Clover, S. S. Sparks; Cowpens, Scipio Greene; Gaffney, R. O. Campbell; Greenwood, J. Clarke; Greer, W. G. Dancy; Hartsville, W. B. Brown; Paolet, A. M. Wright; Reidville, D. H. Kearse; Rock Hill, S. D. Williams; St. James, W. H. Greer; Spartanburg, C. R. Brown; Spartanburg circuit (supply), Moses Cherry; Wellford, A. D. Harris; Yorkville, I. B. Smith; Yorkville circuit (supply), W. J. Smith.

A Good Change.

By direction of the president, Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, U. S. V., was Wednesday assigned to the command of the division of Cuba, relieving Maj. Gen. John R. Brooke, U. S. A. Maj. Gen. Wood will, in addition to his duties as division commander, exercise the authority of military governor of the island. On completion of the transfer of the command, Maj. Gen. Brooke is ordered to repair to this city and report to the adjutant general of the army for further orders of the secretary of war. He will be accompanied by his authorized aides. In relieving Maj. Gen. Brooke the president expresses his high appreciation of and thanks for the faithful and efficient service rendered by that officer as governor of Cuba.

First Class Instruments.

If you want a first class piano or organ, be sure to visit my store, or write me for information. I handle only first class instruments—Steinway, Mason & Hamlin, Mathushek, Sterling, Huntington and Ludden & Bates Pianos; Mason & Hamlin and Sterling organs. Liberal terms and fair dealing. No middleman's commissions—sales direct from factory. D. A. Pressley, Manager Ludden & Bates Southern Music House, Columbia, S. C. 1 mo.

A Poor Prophet.

Voltaire said nearly one hundred years ago in a boastful tone, "before the beginning of the nineteenth century Christianity will have disappeared from the earth." The Boston Transcript calls attention to the fact that since he uttered those words over two hundred million have been added to the Christian church, and the same room in which Voltaire uttered those words is now a depository of Bibles.

Killed in the Ring.

Henry Neise of St. Louis, Mo., was killed by a right hand swing to the head, delivered by Fred Ballerson of Utah, in the sixth round of a boxing bout at the St. Louis A. C. Thursday night. "Tim" Hurst and Manager Chas. W. Whitney were immediately taken into custody. Ballerson escaped, but his seconds were put under arrest. The physician's verdict was to the effect that Neise died from concussion of the brain.

THE OLIVE BRANCH.

Method of Minority for Obtaining Peace With Honor.

RESOLUTION INTRODUCED.

Promising Independence to Filipinos, When Peace Is Established Under Certain Conditions.

Two joint resolutions were introduced in the house of representatives Thursday by Representative Williams of Michigan, which are the result of consultation among a number of Democratic leaders in the house, and are understood to be expressive of their general position on the Philippines. The text of the first resolution is as follows:

Whereas, the hope has been held out that the Filipinos, now waging war against the forces of the United States in the island of Luzon, would lay down their arms if authoritatively assured that it was the intention of the government and the people of the United States ultimately to grant to the people of that island their independence and the absolute control of their domestic affairs; and

Whereas, such is the intention of the government and of the American people, who do not believe in wars of conquest or criminal aggression against other peoples and have frequently declared their horror thereof, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the senate and house of representatives in congress assembled: Section 1. That it has always been our intent and purpose to recognize the inalienable right of the Filipinos to self government and national independence and that, in pursuance thereof, we shall make formal recognition of these rights and withdraw our land and sea forces upon the establishment of peace and the inauguration of a constitutional government, or governments, by the people of the islands, or any of them, provided the said government agrees, or the said governments agree, to refund the \$20,000,000 which was paid by us to the queen of Spain; to give us in fee simple, with right of sovereignty vested in us, a place suitable for a naval station and other places fitted for coaling stations, and to grant the American people in perpetuity the right of free access to all of their ports for goods, merchandise and persons bent on peaceful or missionary pursuit.

Sec. 2. We pledge our friendly assistance and counsel in the work of inaugurating such a government.

Sec. 3. We pledge ourselves to treat as an unfriendly manifestation towards the United States any foreign interference or aggression for the period of 10 years from and after the establishment of such a government; provided that the government of said islands shall surrender into our keeping, during that period, the entire question of their foreign relations and shall pay the expense to which we may be put for such troops as shall, at the request of said government, be kept on Philippine territory and such naval vessels as may be kept in the Philippines adjacent waters for the purpose of the protection herein provided.

The other resolution recited the constitutional provisions against slavery and involuntary servitude, asks for information relative to the conclusion of a treaty with the sultan of Jolo, and provides for an inquiry by the judiciary committee as to whether the constitutional provisions against slavery and the statutory provisions against polygamy apply to the Sulu people.

Spanish Cruelty.

Senora Carmina Lopez, who was the wife of a Cuban general, and who in 1897 escaped from Cabañas Fortress, in the guise of a nun, and who took refuge on an Argentine warship, which conveyed her to Buenos Ayres, was held with her four children at the barge office in New York Wednesday, having arrived there from Rio Janeiro on the steamer Wadsworth, en route for Cuba. The family is returning to its old home after long exile. Gen. Juan Lopez was five years ago a wealthy planter worth \$2,000,000. He was arrested and sent as a political prisoner to Cabañas Fortress, where three years ago, with one hundred and thirty-seven other prisoners, he was shot. Shortly after his widow was apprehended and cast into the prison, set apart for women. Her four children were taken in charge by the sisters of charity. After Senora Lopez had been in prison two months she effected her escape by the aid of two American sisters of charity. Senora Lopez is returning to Cuba to try to regain her estate.

Will Meet in Philadelphia.

The Republican national convention will be held at Philadelphia June 19 next. The place and date were decided upon by the national committee Friday after a friendly contest for the honor of entertaining the convention between the city selected, Chicago, St. Louis and New York. The meeting of the committee was held at the Arlington hotel Washington and was presided over by Senator Hanna, chairman of the committee. Forty-three of the 45 States and each of the six territories were represented.

Choked to Death.

The Florence correspondent of The News and Courier says the ten-year-old son of Mrs. Fannie Poston, of Boston, in that county, met with a pitiable death last week. The little fellow was playing with some loose corn and swallowed a grain, which lodged in his windpipe. The little fellow suffered terribly for a few days and finally died from the effects of the swelling of the corn, which choked him to death.

Two Men Killed.

The Savannah Morning News says: "No report of it was received at Savannah, but it was heard yesterday from a gentleman from Augusta that the first Southern train into Savannah killed a man on the Port Royal and Augusta stretch of the route. About two weeks ago the Atlantic Coast Line ran its first train into Augusta, and that train, too, killed a man en route."